

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

MAR 1 3 1996

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Land Disposal Restrictions Phase III Final Rule

FROM: Michael Shapiro, Director

Office of Solid Waste

TO: URCRA-Affiliated Division Directors

Regions I-X

Administrator Browner recently signed the Land Disposal Restrictions (LDR) Phase III rule, covering decharacterized wastewater, carbamate wastes and spent aluminum potliners. This rule promulgates concentration-based treatment standards for underlying hazardous constituents found in characteristic hazardous wastes managed in surface impoundments in Clean Water Act (CWA) and CWA-equivalent treatment systems, and injected into Class I nonhazardous waste injection wells regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Disposal Act.

As you know, the Administration has targeted the treatment standards for the above-mentioned wastewaters for review in its regulatory reform initiative. Legislation has passed both houses of Congress that would require the Agency to exempt diluted wastes from LDR treatment requirements, if they are managed in CWA (or equivalent) systems or a Class I nonhazardous waste injection well. We expect the President to sign the legislation, in which case EPA will take appropriate action on this rule. In lieu of applying regulations immediately to these wastewaters, EPA will need to study the risks associated with managing once-hazardous wastes in these types of systems. These standards are being promulgated now because they are required by statute and a legally binding settlement agreement. You should note that several aspects of the final rule, however, are unaffected by the legislation. The preamble explains in detail which portions would be affected and which would not.

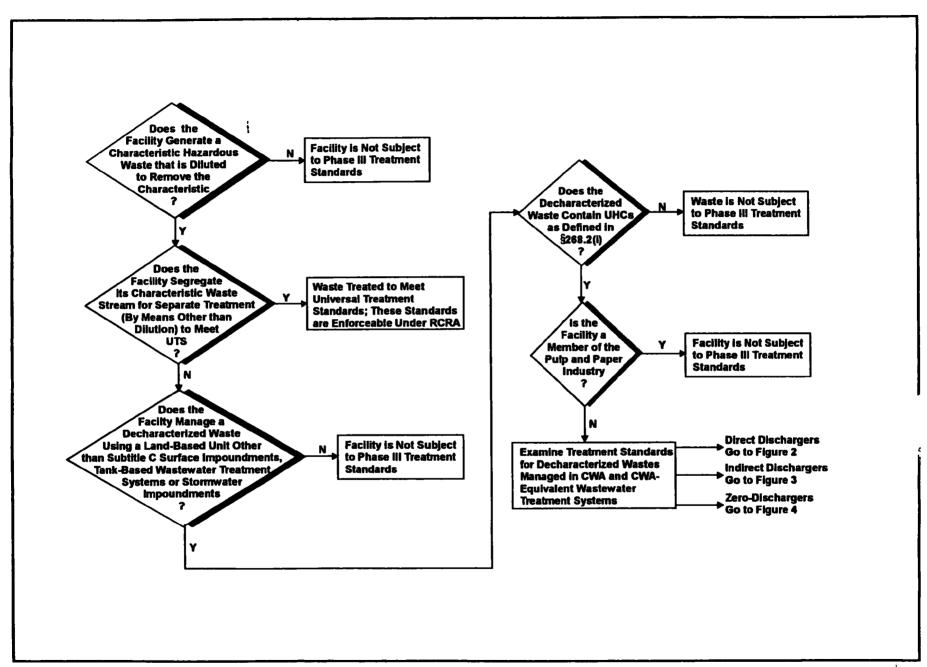


Figure 1. General Applicability Criteria for Treatment Standards for Clean Water Act (CWA) and CWA-Equivalent Wastewater Treatment Systems

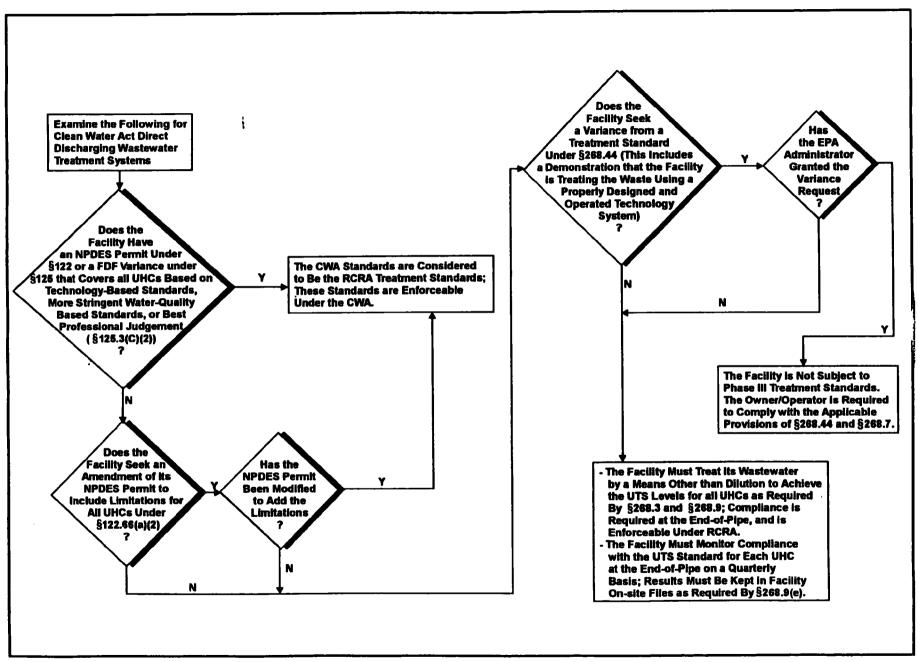


Figure 2. Applicability Criteria and Treatment Standards for Decharacterized Wastes Managed in Clean Water Act Direct Discharging Wastewater Treatment Systems

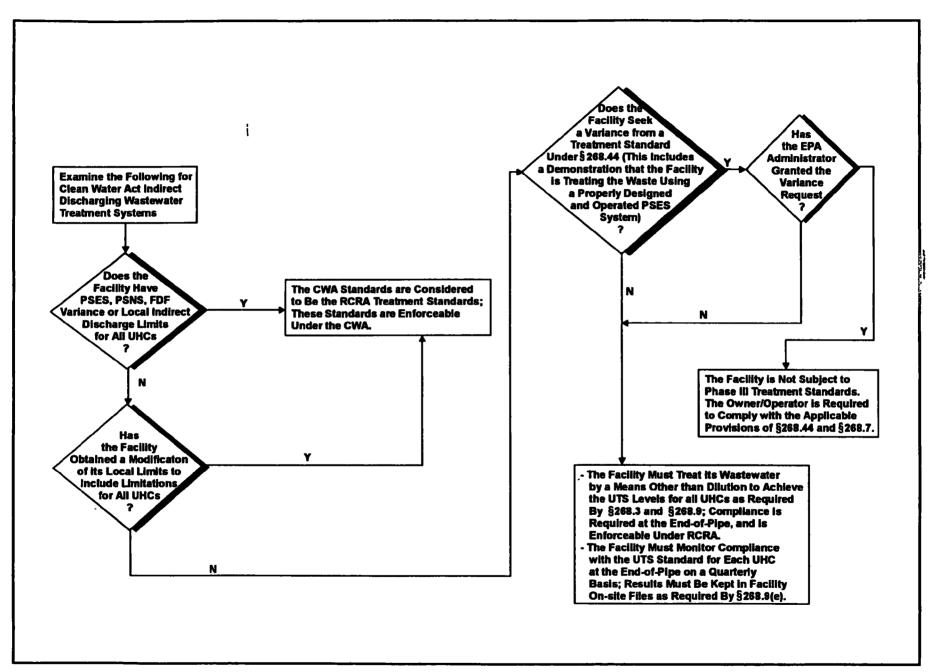


Figure 3. Applicability Criteria and Treatment Standards for Decharacterized Wastes Managed in Clean Water Act Indirect Discharging Wastewater Treatment Systems

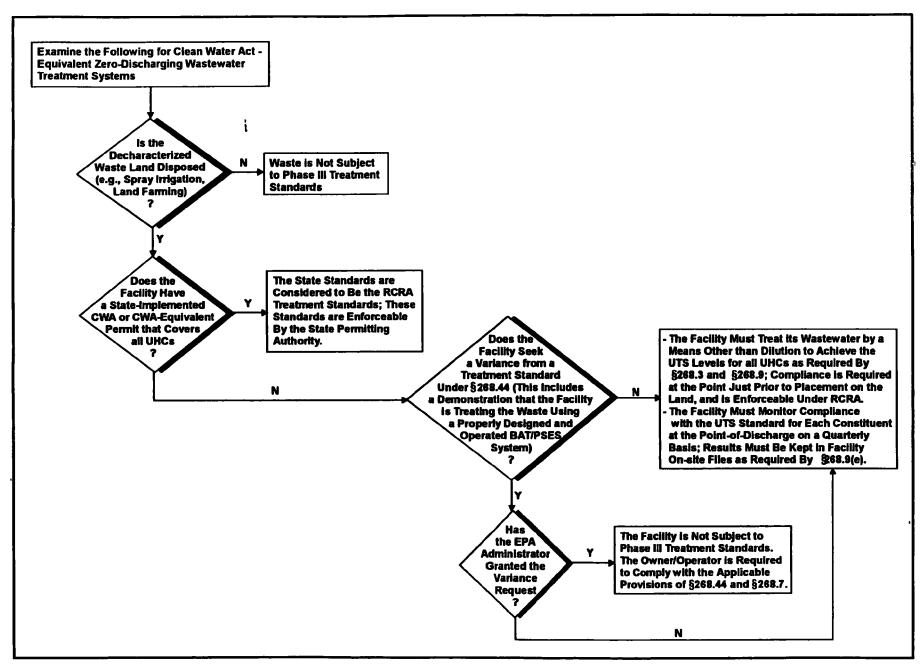


Figure 4. Applicability Criteria and Treatment Standards for Decharacterized Wastes Managed in Clean Water Act - Equivalent Zero-Discharging Wastewater Treatment Systems

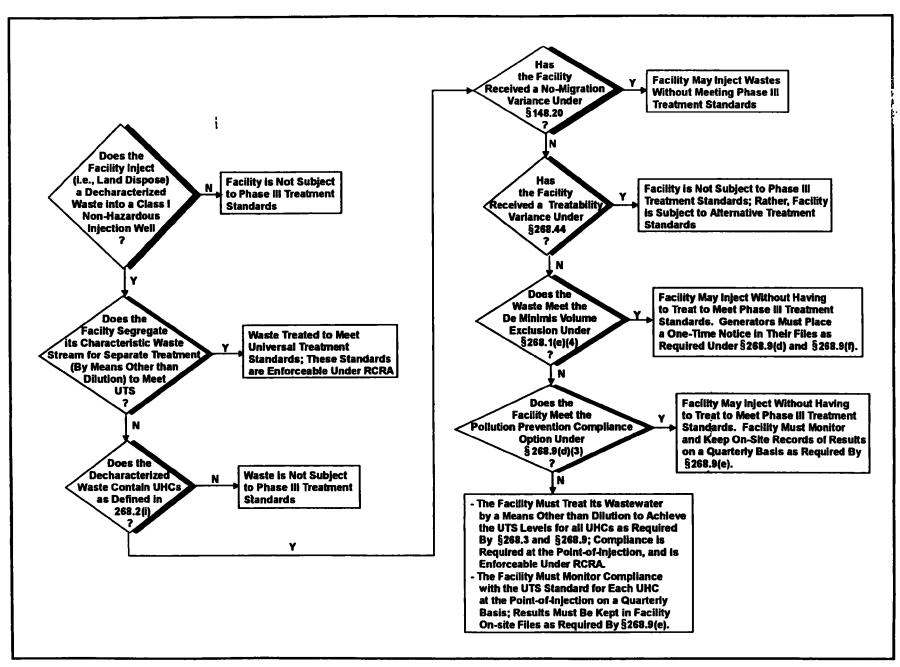


Figure 5. General Applicability Criteria and Treatment Standards for SDWA-Regulated Facilities Discharging
Decharacterized Waste Into Class I Non-Hazardous Injection Wells